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The 4th ~~5th~~ and
~~The~~ last question to be asked under this head is, how far should nature be trusted in the cure of diseases? This is an important question. whole volumes have been written in favor of what have been called the "vires naturæ medicatrices", or the healing powers of nature, and physicians have received the name of her servants, that is, persons whose only business is to watch and support her operations in curing diseases. ~~Ju~~ Intelligence has been ascribed to ~~nature~~ this principle by Dr Stahl under the name of "anima medica". and honors little short of divine have been paid to it by a certain class of physicians. Cicero remarks that there never was an error

so great or absurd that was not believed by some philosophers". To this remark I will add - there never was an error so palpable as the one I have mentioned, so generally believed. It began with Hippocrates, - it pervades ~~all~~ the writings of all the Roman physicians. The works of Sydenham are tinctured with it, and there is scarcely a medical book in any modern language that does not contain more or less of it. ~~The~~ My opinions of the operations of nature in diseases have not been adopted hastity. You will find them in an oration contained in the 1st volume of my medical inquiries, upon the diseases ~~[illegible]~~ of

the Indians delivered before the American Philosophical Society in the year 1772. I shall read the passage to ~~y~~ which I refer, from which you will see that the seeds of the principles of medicine I am now teaching were sown in my mind ~~many years ago~~ at ~~many~~ an early period of my medical life ~~Red~~ from p: 35" - to 38".

~~Unprejudiced~~ These opinions ~~may appear,~~ at their delivery ~~when~~ were considered as the effusions of the heated imagination of a young physician, - but the lapse of near forty years has produced no change in them; on the contrary it has confirmed & established them,

~~I am not singular in maintain~~

Sir John Pringle in describing a fever which prevailed in the British Army writes as follows "In general the fever was most frequent among the poor who lay upon ground floors, and wanted medicines, and in whom nature was either too weak to make no cures, or but slow and imperfect ones".

in my mind. Since that time I have had the pleasure of finding my opinions supported by several respectable physi=
=cians. Dr Willis in speaking of the plague says "The plague has this peec=
=liarity in it, that the Cure should not be left to nature, but we must fight against it always with remedies taken from Art". Dr Mosely in speaking of Nature has the following words "whatever may be the necessity of one evil in the works of nature, to remove another, or the Utility of such remedies as fevers of which people die, I am of opinion that dis eases should seldom be left to nature, & were I not confirmed in this opinion by my

V For my part adds the Doctor, I have no Opinion of nature as a medical despot, nor of obsequious physicians as her minis=-ters, which may be thought heresy in the temple in which the high priest himself says "nature cures diseases".

my own practice in the Dysentery, I should be inclined to do it from the success of Sydenham, who took some diseases out of her hands when her methods were uncertain, and gave them a speedy termination? - Yes - Doctor Mosely has reasoned ~~fo~~ correctly from the example of Dr Sydenham who not only took the ~~cure~~ cure of the plague out of the hands of nature, but of all other violent diseases. It is true he advocates the healing powers of nature in many parts of his works, but his practice mainly in all diseases refutes his principles upon this subject. Thus we find men professing a belief in the most absurd notions in

Religion, and yet conforming to the precepts of the purest morality. Dr Moseley has ~~and~~ further acted independently in rebelling against the authority of Hippocrates to whom we are indebted for the long & universal empire which nature has held in the Schools of medicine. Read his histories of cases. ~~In~~ ~~Most of them terminate fatally~~ Diseases which might have been cured by a single bleeding, or purge, or a few doses of Bark are left to nature. His patients suffer every kind of morbid distress, ~~and wretchedness~~ ~~finally die covered with blood from hemorrhages~~, or with pus from abscesses. ~~In~~ During the whole ~~of this~~ progress of ~~these principal~~ their ~~and mortal~~ diseases, what is ~~the~~ his conduct ~~of this great father of medicine~~? He

visits his patients every hour of the day, — he pats nature upon the back — indul=
=ges ~~her~~ all her morbid appetites, and inclinations — guards the approaches of death — the days on which hemorrhages & abscesses occur — records them with his pencil — pre=
=dicts the issue of the disease, and for his correctness in both, obtains the name of the great father of medicine.

But why do I mention any modern authorities in favor of repudiating the powers of na=
=ture in the cure of diseases? There is scarce=
=ly any physician who does not do it, in a degree, every day of his life. What affinity does bleeding in a pleurisy and opiates in a dysentery bear to the tendencies of nature? And yet where is the physician who does not use the lancet & opium in the cure of those diseases? —

The great error of trusting the cure of Diseases to nature seems to have arisen from contemplating her operations in two very different situations of health & sickness. In the former state of the system, she is active, regular, and equal to all her exigencies. ~~of the~~ But in sickness or Disease, the reverse of this order, and regularity takes place. "While one part is prostrate - another overacts its part - There is no reciprocity in the different systems. The capacity of life ceases to pervade them equally. - All natural sympathies & associations are destroyed - even of parts that are contiguous to each other and most intimately related. The circulation of the blood is carried on by ~~mechanical~~ artificial means chiefly, and the ~~[illegible]~~ matter of the body

This is a view of the condition of the system under the direction of "disordered & debilitated nature" in most of diseases, but to show in a more striking light ~~the~~ her the impotence, the delirium, and the frantic operations of nature in medicine I shall mention the state of the body under her direction in a violent bilious fever. Behold her! thum=ping and oppressing the brain with too much blood, — inverting the natural order of the stomach and bowels, — rending and tearing the blood and blood vessels to pieces, weaking or annihilating the senses, ~~scorching~~ paining one part of the skin with ~~the painful degrees of heat~~ ~~cold~~, and another part ~~with the painful degrees of~~ of it with cold at the same time — bathing the body with ~~unprofitable~~ sweats, and finally destroying life with a sudden and general convulsion. This

not only loses its animated, but its
animalized qualities, and partakes of
most of the properties of what is called
dead matter." In short in all violent
diseases, nature is appalled, or like a drun-
-ken man in a dark room reels to and
fro without being able to discover either
window or door, or if by accident, he
reaches one of them, he stumbles against
it with so much force, ~~and~~ as to break
both it, and his neck together.

The remarks that have been delivered
upon the feebleness and obliquity of the operations
of nature will receive ~~new~~ fresh support when
we take a view of the diseases of a part of the
brute creation. Here
we behold in many ~~dis~~ cases disease & death
to be nearly synonimous. The bilious fever,
worms, and even the Catarrh so generally

gentlemen is no exaggerated picture. Be not alarmed at it. In thus tearing the fringe from the garment of our Science, ~~I hope~~ I shall not injure that garment, but hope to surrender it up to you in a neater and more durable form than that which it has received from the idolatry of our Ancestors in medicine.

[grade of force in the operations of nature in the diseases of both men & brutes which not only tends to health but produces it. I shall call it the healing point or level of her operations. It is of the same grade as a remedy with sleep which I said in our physiology cured light indispositions only, but is passive or hurtful in violent diseases.]

cured by medicine in the human species, are generally fatal in domestic animals when left to the management of nature. – Hence we read of whole flocks of them being swept away in the course of a few weeks by some of these diseases to the great distress of the husbandman in every part of the world. – ~~There is of astronomy a certain~~ I might here digress and show ~~what~~ the effects of trusting to ~~with~~ pernicious ~~influences~~ upon the mind, or upon the body, or ~~of~~ upon the operations of nature ~~and~~ morals ~~Politics~~ as well as in medicine. ~~Folly and Vice of mankind are the fruits of following nature~~ ~~This~~

We all bring into the world with us what Rousseau calls "moral instinct", or what has since been called a moral faculty. This innate capacity for a while ~~in~~ serves the same purpose as our instinctive appetites

for food. But its influence is much limited, short, and very ~~and unless followed and aided by Reason and Revelation is too feeble to conduct us~~ It serves to direct the mind in its pursuit of moral happiness only in its infant & healthy state. — ~~For~~ the moral diseases of the mind which break forth in youth and manhood, it can afford no remedy. Reason and Revelation alone are the ~~medicines~~ remedies necessary for this purpose. ~~They are the same to the moral diseases of the mind, that depleting and tonic medicines are to the body.~~ For support of the truth of this remark, look at the moral character of the Indians of our country among whom it is considered as wrong to restrain ~~or punish~~ the evil propensities, or to punish

the vices of their children, lest they should weaken their courage, and render them less fit for the ~~crimes~~ cruelties & other crimes of war. Look further at ~~the moral character~~ conduct ~~of~~ those ~~child~~ persons in civilized society who have been left by their parents to the habitually influence of their ~~natural~~ moral instincts. ~~Do you wish to know when~~ ~~to~~ you will find them ~~filling~~ in the jails, the navies and the armies of all the nations in the world. I grant there are some ~~instances~~ persons to be found in these crowds of miserable people who have had all the advantages of a moral & religious education, but these persons bear no greater proportion to the number who have ~~not had~~ followed their moral instincts, than the number of patients

V the Analogy between the physical remedies for the diseases of our bodies, and the moral remedies for the diseases of our minds. The feeble & limited operations of nature in curing diseases, ~~accord~~ with the feeble operations of moral instinct. ~~in overcoming the feeble wiles and follies of infancy and childhood~~. The remedies of abstinence ~~and~~ & sweating, rest, ~~are and~~ accord ~~to~~ with the higher operations of reason; - while the ~~powerful~~ energetic ~~rapid and basic~~ remedies of bleeding vomits - purges - mercury - Bath - the powerful & cathartics and wine accord with the in curing the diseases extensive influence of Religion ~~upon~~ of the mind.

who die of violent fevers in the hands of skilful physicians, ~~compared with~~ bear to the number of those who are committed to the hands of nature. I grant further, that we sometimes see great perfection of moral character in persons who have had no other tutor than moral instinct to direct them, but the number of these persons is comparatively as small as ~~that~~ the number of those who recover of violent ~~medicine~~ ~~who~~ ~~in the hands~~ fevers when left ~~to nature~~ wholly in the hands of nature. ~~and without the aid of medicine~~ It is agreeable thus to discover ~~truth~~. — ~~Trace the effects~~ I might go on, and illustrate my opinions further from the effects of following ~~nature~~ her, not only in individuals, but in public bodies: all the calamities and distresses of war & bad government,

In one place we behold debility, palsy, & mortification from the pressure of taxes, partially unjustly accumulated, — in another we behold those taxes produc-ing plethora — haemorrhages — and apoplexy.

I call them by what name you will — whether kings or usurpers — ~~type~~ heroes, or tyrants — they are all like the physicians of the Hippocratic school "nature's ministri", that is, the servants of nature.

I return from these ~~illustrations~~ analogies ~~proofs~~ of ~~our body~~ the destructive effects of following nature in morals & government, to speak of them in medicine, and here I shall only add ~~one~~ as the natural consequence of

that have ever existed in our world, are the effects of the ~~so~~ rulers of nations, following nature. They are all in ~~the exact~~ that state ~~of the~~ which I have said takes place in the ~~human body~~ ~~when in~~ under ~~a violent~~ human body in violent diseases. Every Disease, ~~which has been described~~. Every faculty of their minds is ~~in a~~ thrown out of its place, or unduly and obliquely exe-cited. All their actions compared with a standard of moral order, are deranged. ~~or to~~ ~~use~~ the words of an inspired writer, ~~they~~ ~~in speaking of the iniquitous~~ the nations who ~~thus~~ commit the crimes that have been mentioned are "drunk", that is, they act like drunken men under the influence of moral instinct, ~~or~~ to retrace to ~~the operations~~ the subject of our lecture, they act like mature in a violent

V But there are no cases in which it is proper to follow nature, and there ~~Is But there are~~ no advantages to be derived from a knowledge of ~~the~~ her operations ~~of nature~~ in diseases ~~in~~ in any cases? yes there are. I shall briefly mention them.

What has been said, my advice to you whenever you are called to persons ill with a violent disease, always to treat nature as you would a noisy dog, or cat in a sick room, — that is, turn her out of the room — and shut the door upon her. —

[Do thus rejecting the operations of nature in violent diseases, let us not deprive ourselves of the benefit to be derived from observing her feeble — ill directed — or disproportioned efforts in medicine.] In the beginning, or during the prevalence of great and mortal epidemics, great advantages may be derived from attending to their symptoms in persons who are but slightly indisposed, and not so ill as to be confined by them. This will be best done by observing those symptoms in country people if the epidemic prevail in a city, and in persons in high life, if it prevail among the common people. For example,

if persons slightly indisposed have colica, or a sick stomach, attack the prevailing fever with vomits or purges - If they have spon=taneous hemorrhages from the nose, he=morrhoidal vessels, or Uterus, resort im=mediately to the lancet - If they have a tendency to spontaneous sweats - have re=course to sudorific medicines, - If they have slight Coughs suspect the lungs to be deeply affected - if they complain of head ach - suspect the brain to the seat of arterial determination and act accordingly in both cases. If persons slightly indisposed are affected with boils, or eruptions upon the skin, fly to applications which produce artificial diseases upon those parts, and lastly if such persons complain of sore throat, & hawk & spit -

more than usual, pour in mercury as
soon as possible to ~~di~~ expel the disease by
a salivation. It was in this way Dr Syden=
=ham met the fever of 1670 & 1671 ~~Thomas first~~ by number
~~before~~ of dysenteries prevailed at this time. The hys=
=pond very justly that ~~the constitution of the~~ nature was
~~this~~ disposed to ~~the latter disease and to do~~
relieve herself by a discharge from the bowels.
He adopted the use of purges in this fever &
thus cured it. But further - in addition
to the aids to be drawn from observing the
mild forms of an epidemic fever in persons
slightly indisposed, an advantage may some=
=times be derived from extending our views
further, and examining whether the same
epidemic prevails among any of the domestic
animals of the country. If it do, inquire
into its principal seat, and determination.

By means of the light though feeble, which may be thus obtained from watching the operations of nature, we may be led to the use of remedies which may vanquish an epidemic in its worst and most dangerous forms. The same remarks apply to individual & chronic diseases. The tendencies of nature should be observed, and her efforts assisted by medicines when they are too feeble to cure them. In short - nature may be compared to a post upon a high road which often points out the way we should go, without moving ~~at all~~ to accompany us upon our journey. They apply likewise to the diseases of different ages. In infancy & childhood, the instinct to throw plethora and offensive humors behind the ears; ~~then we should divert them if possible~~ ~~if~~ should the fail of doing so, & throw

them upon the brain; let us divert them to nature's outlet behind the ears. In youth, she inclines to throw her redundant blood upon the lungs. Here let us divert it to the external part of the breast by cups & blisters — and by stimulating applications to the arm pits. In old age she inclines to throw diseases upon the bowels, and lower extremities — here let us assist her by purges, and stimulating applications to the ~~extremities~~ feet. ~~In this~~ By thus ~~assisting to flatter~~ seconding the ~~up~~ tendencies of nature ~~we~~ we succeed better, than by opposing her by a counter current of revulsive ~~remedies~~ remedies, especially when they are of a mild nature. It is remarkable that something analogous to the changes I have mentioned in the different periods of life, takes place in pregnancy. In its first stage the fluids are

V nature in all these cases resembles in a certain degree a post upon a high road which points to the way we ~~to~~ wish to go, without moving to accompany us upon our journeys. —

~~There is however~~

determined to the stomach & head, — in the second to the breast and bowels — and in its last, when the system partakes most of weakness, to the lower extremities in which they discover this excess by pain and Oedematous swellings.

2.ly In observing a disposition in nature to throw of a child disease by a single outlet, let us beware how we rely upon that single outlet in such diseases as are violent. It has been said, that by opening any other emunctory besides that to which nature has pointed, we thwart her salutary operations & thus prevent, or retard a cure. But this is not true, and is contradicted daily by the successful practice of physicians of every sect in medicine. — In a tendency to sweat, ~~we ly~~ in a phrensy, we bled and purge without opening a salutary discharge by the pores. In a fever attended

V the predilection of physicians to one
bullet for a disease, or for ~~a uniform~~ one mode
of depletion has arisen from their
ignorance of depletion being a Unit. They
resemble in this ignorance the Servant
of a Drass who upon hearing his master
complained that ~~he~~
he lost a portion of a ~~tripe~~ cask of wine
by a spill which he discovered in the
lower part of the cask. "Old master" said
he "dont you see the wine has been
stolen from the ~~top~~ upper & not from the lower
part of the cask". ~~to~~ Do not suppose by
this remark that I consider it a matter
of indifference ~~from~~ to deplete from any
one emunctory. ~~many~~ Some diseases yield
only to one class of depleting remedies.
Some to two or more, while some
require them all V=

with a diarrhoea, we accelerate the cure by emetics ~~or bath~~ & sweating medicines, & sometimes by the loss of blood. By absurdly attempting to throw off the whole of a violent disease by a single outlet, we produce the same fatal consequences which sometimes occur from an affrighted congregation attempting to escape from a Church on fire by a single door, whereas by opening all the emunctories of the body to a violent dis=ease, we permit it to escape with the same ease and safety that 20,000 citizens were wont to retire from the numerous and independant doors of the Roman amphitheatre. V

5th: From what has been said of the powers of nature in diseases, we shall be

able to answer the next question that occurs in order and that is how far the longings of sick people should be indulged for ~~ailments~~ Drinks — ~~Drinks~~ ailments - air and exercise. If Nature be in a state of derangement in a violent disease, ~~&~~ if the seats of thirst & hunger are liable to ~~be perverted~~ partake of the delirium of other ~~in common with other~~ ~~parts~~ parts of the body, the inclinations of nature alone should not governs us in complying with them. Many thousand sick people have been destroyed either without, or with the consent of a physician by this practice. I admit that now and then cures have been performed by yielding to the cravings of nature, but this has been only in ~~those~~ cases in which the article taken has accord=ded exactly with the state of the system. Thus

second grade of ~~[illegible]~~ disease it has been useful, but in the highest, and the lowest, it has frequently been hurtful. In every case therefore when nature sends forth her desires, for drinks, food, or exercise, we should comply with, or refuse them according to the state of the system at the time they are desired.

~~I shall now deliver a formula for the exhibition of medicines, but I shall first take notice that all~~

~~Having taken~~

In the cure of ~~all~~ diseases ~~these things~~ it will be necessary ~~for~~ a physician in ~~Dess~~ all his prescriptions constantly to keep his eye upon ~~these~~ three things viz: predisposition – the disease itself, and lastly its symptoms. ~~in all his prescriptions~~ It is the misfortune of medicine that they are often seperated, by which means much mis=chief is done ~~be~~ in the practice of physic ~~the~~ ~~of~~

a draught of cold taken in the intermediate grade of fever has ~~if~~ often induced a salutary sweat. Had the same draught ~~if~~ been taken ~~two days sooner or later~~ in a more excited, or a more debilitated state of the system, it would have done harm. In like manner a slice of bacon, ~~and~~ or a beefstake has sometimes turned the scale in favor of life in a low fever, but it has only been when the fever has descended to the lowest grade of typhus, and after all ~~other~~ the common medical stimulants had lost their effect. Had they been taken sooner, ~~Had it been taken sooner it~~ they would probably have destroyed life. ~~The rule then by which we should be governed should in yielding to the indications~~ Again - we sometimes see persons cured by ~~a~~ indulging a desire for fresh air, by a ride, or a walk. In the

~~will illustrate what I mean by equal examples~~ thus by giving tonics medicines ~~for~~ in an inflam^d fever because the patient has laboured under the nervous predisposition; we increase both the fever and its symptoms – again by ~~giving~~ Using depleting remedies in an inflam^d fever without a regard to the predisposition, or of its symptoms we often deplete too much or too little,

or we suffer the symptoms to destroy life + Lastly by prescribing for symptoms only without a regard to the predisposition or the disease itself, we suffer the patient to perish, while he imposes from the relief we give to his symptoms that he is upon the recovery. opiates to ease a pain in the side in the pleurisy have often had this effect. ~~the~~ ~~cases~~ (a)

+ the cough in a pleurisy ~~and the~~ & the spasm in the larynx in hydrophobia: a vomiting in the yellow fever, ~~and~~ the pain in colic when not relieved, ~~by~~ often produce death by their reaction upon the ~~original~~ disease, or upon the whole system of which they are symptoms

(a) I shall now deliver a few rules for the exhibition of medicines; but I shall first take notice that all = p:24

All medicines may be divided into the following Classes. 1 such as are contrary to our natural tastes and appetites, which are not easily changed by the powers of the System, and which induce weaker or stronger new actions either natural, or less morbid, and dangerous, in a diseased body. The offensive qualities which reside in this class of medicines seem to have been wisely & kindly implanted in them by the Author of Nature in order to prevent our using them in health as articles of diet, or condiments to our food, and thereby preventing their efficacy in sickness. They may all be considered as quick or slow poisons of different grades from arsenic & opium down to vinegar & camomile tea.

2 such as are natural & agreeable to the taste & appetite, but which act by destroying quick, or slow poisons commonly called acrimonies in the human body. These are oils, acids, diluting, and demulcent drinks. Alkalies which act in this way are an exception to the general nature of this division.

3 such as are agreeable to the taste &

of them. ~~for the~~ He will therefore do
more ~~more~~ Service to our Science who upon good grounds
destroys the credit of useless medicines, and
thus expels them from the materia medica, than
he will who discovers a new medicine.
Perhaps the Curtain has dropped upon all
attempts to enlarge the bounds of medicine
~~by~~ in this way, and that all improvements
in the ~~and~~ materia medica will consist
hereafter in discovering the Doses - prepa=

appetite, and act by lessening & increasing ~~and lessening~~ morbid and natural actions by their nutritious or sedative qualities. These are our common aliments and drinks. ~~of all kinds~~ such as act both agreeably & disagreeably upon the body in ~~increasing &~~ lessening & increasing its morbid & natural actions. These are ~~a~~ warm & cool & cold air - cold & warm water - ~~warm & cold and~~ ill - exercise & labor.

In the use of the medicines of the first class there has been the same heresy ~~that there~~ has been in other things. Our systems of nosology have added very much to this number by assigning a different medicine for every disease, and a variety of medicines for the same disease without a due regard to the different states of the system. The unity of disease has swept away many hundred articles of the materia medica from our shops. This number has been still further lessened by the new resources of medicine in diet - warm & cool air, cold water & exercise. But there is room for a still greater diminution

=rations, and precise times of exhibiting
the medicines that are now known &
in the possession of ~~[illegible]~~ physicians. p. 25.
Why should we ~~[illegible]~~ prefer simplicity in Religion,
in poetry - in Architecture - and in Dress, and not prefer
it in medicine.?] Our Sisters gentlemen
resembles Thompson's Description of his ~~[illegible]~~ fowls
~~[illegible]~~ Lavinia
~~what [illegible] beauty~~. "It needs not the Aid
of foreign [or superfluous] ornament, unadorned
But is, ~~who~~ when ~~least adorned~~, adorned
the most.

for fresh air, by a ride or a walk. In the second grade of disease it has been useful, but in the highest and lowest, it has frequently been hurtful. In every case therefore where nature tends forth her desires for drinks - food or exercise, we ~~should governs ourselves by the same~~ should comply with, or refuse them according to the state of the system at the time they are desired.

I shall now deliver a few rules for the exhibition of medicines, but I shall first take notice ~~and here I shall begin~~ ~~I select but few medicines~~ by mentioning that the new resources of medicine are fresh cool air - cold water - exercise - and diet. ~~I am greatly and generally opposed the articles of the Materia medica are no in use in our shops.~~

v a few ~~prep~~ medicines selected in the manner I have mentioned, we shall become better ac=
=quainted with their virtues and doses. It was ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ customary formerly to keep patients constantly under the use of two or three medicines and sometimes more at a time prepared in the form of julips, pills, bolusses and ptisans. This should be avoided as much as possible. A painter once wrote upon a picture in which too many figures were crow=ded: "Figures to be let." ~~In~~ Upon the table in a sick room crowded with bottles, boxes, and gallypots it would be equally proper to write "medicines, and shop furniture to be sold here." — This practice originated in a desire to remove the different symptoms of a diseases by

~~Let that~~ Of the small number of medicines to which our ~~medi~~ materia medica has been reduced, let them in the 1st place ~~be selected in the following manner. Let~~ consist of all those medicines which have been called heroic or energetic, ~~and~~ 2ly of an equal number of such of are of a more feeble nature descending gradually down to teas made of our common domestic herbs. ~~The whole number of these ought~~ and 3ly let there be three or four of the same class so as to strict the variety of constitutions, and to admit of rotation when the system becomes ~~habituated~~ insensible from habit to any one of them. By confining ourselves to 2 medicines are given in a simple & a compound state. upon this subject there have been ~~two~~ opinions, the one is ~~that~~ medicines act best ~~in~~ when given simply, the other is, that they do most good when combined with each

different remedies, without recollecting that they all originated in one cause, and that by removing that cause, the symptoms would cease, with the exception of those few cases in which the palliatives of opium, and demulents are necessary medicines in the hands of different physicians may be compared to the Roman Alphabet, and Chinese characters. The former by being combined in an immense variety of ways, are made to express all the words in our language, so the same medicines by being differently prepared, or exhibited at different times may serve to cure all the diseases that are subject to medicine, while the latter by requiring a specific character for every word, resembles the practice of prescribing a different medicine for every disease, and every symptom of a disease, and hence we find there is the same disproportion between the remedies of a physician who prescribes a different medicine for the name & symptoms of a disease, and a physician who

other. Both opinions are true. Many of them particularly Bark, Opium, Rhubarb, Jalap, salts Castor Oil, Wine and Ammonia act powerfully when given without any mixture, but it is certain many other medicines are improved by being compounded. Dr Akenside cured several Cancers by a mixture of Corrosive Subli=mate and Hemlock which had resisted the Hemlock alone. ~~Wade I was a Student in the College of Edin~~ Opium when combined with an alkali has cured tetanus Dr Stultz lets it alone after it has resisted the use of Opium in a simple state. While I was a Student in the College of Edin an obstinate head ache in the Infirmary of that city in which ~~low low~~ Bark & Valerian in Succession & rotation had been given without effect, was cured in a few Days by a mixture of both those Medicines. In this Case a

prescribes for the Unity of Disease, and the state of the System that there is between the number of the Chinese Characters & the Roman alphabet. The former amount to 60,000, the latter to but four and twenty. return to p: 25.

medicine possessing different qualities from each of them in a separate state was probably formed, or perhaps we may ~~[illegible]~~ account for the efficacy of the compounds that have been mentioned in another way. Recollect the instance I mentioned formerly of a lady who could hear conversation only when she was within the sound of a drum. As the drum here excited the ~~[illegible]~~ membrana tympani to the hearing point, so may not the corrosive sublimate, or the hemlock, in the cases related by Dr Akinside, and the opium or alkali in the case related by Dr Stutz, and the Bark or Valerian in the case which occurred in the ~~[illegible]~~ Edinr Infirmary, have excited the sensibility & irritability of the stomach in such a manner, as to dispose it to act under the impression of but One of the

two medicines that were taken. Take either of the two theories I have delivered you please. Perhaps both of them may be true. It is certain sugar & other sweet substances enable the stomach to retain medicines that would otherwise be rejected. The sugar in this case acts upon the tongue where it excites a pleasurable sensation, which predominates over the disagreeable impression of the medicine. I mentioned formerly that a weak pleasure overcomes in many instances a stronger pain - probably by the susceptibility of the system being so much worn down by pain as to feel in an instant the new impression of pleasure. Dr Clark has illustrated the propriety of combining active, and nauseous medicines with sugar, or other sweet, or mild substances

V when combined with a weak one — This ~~was~~ is noticed by Dr Sydenham. Perhaps this remark applies to all the active stimulating remedies. But to return

This opinion is founded upon ~~specific~~ certain

VI ~~This~~ ~~and so do most limits in that plate~~

medicines acting as I shall say hereafter ~~spec~~ specifically upon different systems,

to enable the Stomach & System to bear them in the following words. "Some medicines require their Correctives. They are not to be trusted alone. They are strangers & enemies to the body, and they require their guides and guards." — a strong purge operates more certainly

Dr Hordyce who is an advocate for the composition of medicines enforces this use in this form by the analogy of the Stomach which retains and digests certain Aliments most easily when they are combined with a number of Spices. There can be doubt but that some medicines act more powerfully, and do ~~the~~ ~~more~~ ~~effectually~~ in a compound, than in a ~~simple~~ state. but the knowledge of their relations to each other can only be known by experience. Dr Hordyce says he has found several of the bitters to assist the Stomach in retaining the Bark — that the Sulphate of Zinc added to the emetic qualities of Ipecacuana, that

[illegible]

Capsicum & black pepper when mixed, excite neither the pain, nor burning in the sto=
=mach which each excites in its simple state — that Squills when combined with Gum Ammoniac are more effectual in the diseases of the lungs that Squills alone, & that Alum is a more powerful astringent when given with the powder of red Roses than when given by itself. Upon these Questions of Dr Hordyce I shall only remark that there is more fallacy in the ~~Operations~~ opinions of physicians upon the action of medicines than upon any other Branch of our Science. Pre=
=conceived hypotheses — prejudice — a lover of the marvelous — a disregard to the different countries in which medicines are cultivated — to their ages, to the parts of them which are used as medicines, — to the forms, and modes of their preparation

to the stage of a disease in which they are exhibited - to the age & constitution of the ~~no~~ patient who takes them, all concur to lead to error in the history of the effects of medicines. To those innocent sources of error in the character of medicines - there is one more, & that is a disregard to truth. It is the more common and the more to be lamented, as it is difficult, and frequently impossible to detect it. ~~nothing~~ The different & opposite accounts that are published of the effects of the same medicines prove the correctness of these remarks. ~~I shall barely mention~~ To illustrate them further, I shall barely mention the contrary opinions of Drs Fordyce, & Dr Cullen of the effects of Tartarized Antimony, Ipecacuana & the neutral salts. Dr Cullen says they do most ~~good~~ service when they excite nausea. Dr Fordyce

denies this, and says they produce ~~most~~ greatest re=
=laxation of the Skin and the ~~greatest~~ most perspi=
=ration when they excite no sickness at stomach.
An hundred similar instances of contradictions
might be mentioned taken from the writings
of the most respectable physicians in Europe.
The inference from these remarks is, that
we should endeavour by taking all circum=
=stances into consideration to discover by
faithful observation what medicines are
improved by mixture. A wide field is ope=
=ned for improving this part of therapeutics
since we have rejected empiricism ~~as~~ on
medicine, and ~~has~~ learned to regulate our
prescriptions ~~of~~ by the existing varying
states of the system.

We have thus taken notice of the effects of
compound medicines. The transition is natural

from this subject to say a few words of com-
-pound Councils, that is of Consultations
in the treatment of diseases. They are highly
useful. 1 because as "iron sharpeneth iron",
so one man's understanding sharpens another
in all the affairs of human life. 2 because
they beget confidence & hope. The physician
who is called into a consultation acts by his
presence with the force & effect of a multitude
and of a reinforcement to a party engaged in a battle.
upon the mind of a patient. 3 because they
~~give~~ suppress that excess of solicitude which
sometimes embarrasses the judgement of a
solitary physician. 4 because they divide
responsibility, and thereby protect the profession
of medicine, and of individual physicians
in an unsuccessful issue of a disease. The cases
in which Consultations should be resorted to,

V Cases in which the patient is a ~~near~~ a near ~~relation~~, or ~~to~~ the friend of ~~the~~ a physi=
=cian. ~~The~~ Affection and solicitude for such patients ~~exists~~ weaken the judgement, ~~and often~~ by creating irresolution and timidity, and ~~to~~ render ~~Consultation of~~ the aid of a disinterested physician indispensably necessary. —

are as follow. 1 in all doubtful cases.
2 in all dangerous cases ~~that are not~~
doubtful. 3 in all tedious cases in which
confidence is apt to languish in a single
physician. 4 in all desperate cases. these
consultations satisfy the patient - his friends,
and the public. 5 In all cases in which a
new and unpopular medicine is judged to be
necessary. ~~#~~ 6 in all cases in which there is
a probability of an appeal being made to a
court of justice, such as in diseases from assaults - poison
and affections of the ~~brain~~ morbid mind. 7 In all
In the choice of a consulting physician con=
=sent only to meeting him whose principles &
practice are nearly similar to your own. All
heterogeneous consultations of physicians of
opposite principles and practice are like part=
=nerships in trade. Their objects are money,

and not the life of a patient, & thousands have been sacrificed to them. The great & good Dr. Sydenham in the close of his life reproaches himself with having lost patients by yielding his judgment in consultations to physicians, who pursued a mode of practice opposite to his own. If to yoke an ox & an ass ~~together~~ in one plough was deemed incongruous, and forbidden by the jewish law, how much more incongruous must it be unite two physicians in a consultation, who attempt to cure disease by medicines as unrelated to each other, & to the disease, as an ox and an ass? But further, two modes of practice may be proper if used by themselves, but which when combined, or pared down to meet the judgments of the two physicians who prescribe them,

(by which means they) either do harm, or leave a patient to pe=
=rish by his disease:

The difference in the mode of preparing me=
=dicines has the same effect upon this
operation that a difference in the mode of pre=
=paring aliments has upon this agreeable & nutritious qualities. Lib opium will often lie upon the Stomach when Liquid Laudanum will not, & vice versa. An old & dry opium pill Dr Wyt has told us will lie upon the Stomach when a fresh one will not. Bark is a diffe=
=rent medicine in substance - decoction - tincture and when it is fresh or has been kept to a certain time extract & Dr Grainer says he dis=
=charged water in a dropsy by means of the extract of Squills, when the powder of that medicine made no impression upon the kidneys. But even the same medicine acts differently according as it is exhibited

in the form of powder or pills. This is the case particularly with Iron, & bitters of all kinds. They produce the most powerful effects when diffused thro' the mouth, and pharynx in the former state. These facts should teach us not to lay aside a medicine which is indicated in a disease, ~~until we have~~ but which is refused by the stomach, until we have tried it in all its different modes of preparation.

Medicines are sometimes rejected by the stomach from their having disagreed with it in a former disease, or from some disagreeable ~~association of~~ ideas being associated ~~connected~~ with them. In these cases, a patient should be kept ignorant of the name of his medicines. Opium has

often been retained in this way, & I have known an instance in which Calomel was well received by the stomach of a lady when disguised, who could not retain it a moment when she knew ~~the name of~~ what had been administered to her. There are other cases in which an advantage of another kind will arise from concealing the name of the medicine we give to our patients, and that is, it will increase his faith in it. ~~and~~ This will be the more necessary if the medicine be a simple and a common one, and the patient not remarkable for his understanding. The influence of the principle of ~~the~~ faith in the human mind ~~is very great~~ over the body is very great. The Scrophula has been cured by it by means of what is called the "Royal touch" ~~in~~ for the

A ~~Ne~~ new medicine or article of diet should be given as seldom as possible in the morning. Should it disagree with a patient it will be less easy to obviate its bad effects during the night than in the day time.

When you are doing well, do not try to do better, — or in other words, when your patient is mending, make no change in his medicines, diet or manner of living in order to precipitate his cure. Remember the epitaph which a gentleman once composed for himself, "I was well. I wished to be better. I took physic — and I died."

~~Do~~ not leave off the use of

14th & 15th Centuries in England. Quacks owed their success chiefly to it. There are again persons of strong minds to whom not only the names of the medicines we exhibit shall be made known, but our whole plan of cure. In these persons Reason ~~cooperates~~ becomes ~~with faith~~ the foundation of faith, and both concur to aid us in all our prescriptions.

V There are two classes of medicines which should be rarely prescribed, ~~as rarely as possible~~. These are medicines which shock the prejudices and feelings of our patients, ~~by their~~ such as are and ~~medicines~~ expensive. To the former class belonged some years ago, the powder of human skulls, ~~[illegible]~~ known by the name of Cranium humanum, dogs dung known by the name of Album Græcum, lice, & Lambs blood, & Cows Urine, known by the

of a medicine which you believe from experience to be suited to a disease because it disagrees with a patient the first few times he takes it, or because he appears to be worse after it. Many medicines are like bleeding in this respect, they appear to do harm where they are doing good. Thus a milk ~~diet is~~ which is sometimes offensive to the stomach for weeks and months, ~~and~~ by ~~yet a~~ perseverance ~~in the use of it~~ becomes not only agreeable, but frequently cures diseases which yield to no other remedy. —

~~Rarer~~ name of all flower water, ~~and~~ These have yielded ~~to~~ in modern times to Musk - Castor - Chicken gizzards - Beef's gall and the Urine of the pole-cat. - Of these modern remedies I shall only say, that if they have done good, ~~at~~ at any time, they owe their ~~either~~ efficacy, ~~either~~ to the honor they excite in the system, - or to qualities which are possessed in a higher degree by many less offensive ~~an~~ mineral & vegetable substances. In favor of studying oeconomy in our prescriptions, let us recollect that sickness suspends the means of earning & collecting money, and that the efficacy of an expensive medicine in such circumstances may be defeated by the sedative effects of its high price. Sea voyages, long journies, distant mineral waters, and Baths of Bark - wine and ardent spirits should not be mentioned to persons in indigent

circumstances. When prescribed, & not adopted from an inability to bear their expences, the distress produced by that inability sometimes renders a disease fatal, that might have been cured by other remedies. Happily for sick people! ~~the~~ those medicines which have performed the greatest number of cures in all ages & countries, are the cheapest. These are the lancet - abstinence, air, water, exercise and labor. Next to these are medicines of a moderate price, such as garlic, tar, Iron & mercury - and ~~when~~ of ~~such as are~~ the expensive, such as Bark, Rhubarb, Jalap, mustard and medicines Spanish flies, the quantity required to cure a common acute disease, is seldom above the resources of a day labourer in all Countries.

A regard should be had to ~~the~~ neatness and cleanliness in the composition of medicines, & to taste and correctness in the directions which accompany

them. A bolus of a red or green, or any other offensive color – a label carelessly tied upon the neck of ~~the~~ a vial – pills of an ~~[illegible]~~ unequal size, or that are amalgamated with each other – powders coarsely pulverized, or unequally divided – and directions written in a careless, or illegible hand, ~~with~~ or ~~in~~ in abbreviated words, – or with bad spelling, or without the name of the patient inscribed upon them, never fail to lessen the confidence of a patient in a physician, and to lessen the effects of his medicines upon a disease. Even the shop ~~the~~ in which a physician keeps his medicines should exhibit marks of neatness and order. I once heard a gentleman express a total want of confidence in a physician's judgment only because he went accidentally into his shop, and saw his counter covered with bottles without

They require in many instances their condiments as well as stimulants to make them lie easily upon the stomach, and even to increase their efficacy.

books — and ~~his~~ Scales and weights scattered over every part of it. He inferred that the same want of order pervaded the physician's mind.

~~Medicine~~ The forms of medicines in common use are Juleps — ~~drops~~ liquids intended to be given in drops, — pills — powders ~~ex-~~ ~~tracts~~ infusions — Decoctions Apozisems. Bolusses and Electuaries are nearly banished from the Shops of the Apothecaries.

Pains should be taken to ~~make~~ lessen the disagreeable ~~taste~~ of Medicines ~~as agreeable as possible~~ provided it can be done, without impairing their Virtues. Dr Stahl speaks highly of a Dr Thomer who got into business by rendering his medicines palatable to his patients. The same rule is more proper ~~should be~~ applied to the diet of sick people. It is a high act of kindness and humanity to study to please their appetites,

"Optima medicina, aliquando nulla medicina". I know not who was the Author of this Aphorism, but I am sure he deserves more credit for it, than the discoverers of three fourths of all the Articles of the materia medica. It

~~"Optima medicina, aliquando, nulla medicina".~~ The painters say "manum de tabula" when a picture is finished. Nearly the same thing may sometimes be said to a physician in the treatment of diseases. "Manum e officina" – that is – "take away your hand from your drawers and bottles." The cases in which this rule is necessary are 1st when life is suspended by a single thread, and when the least addition or abstraction from the stimuli which support it may cut that thread. We sometimes hear of patients recovering who have been given over by their physicians. It is because they have been left to the accidental ratio between the capacity of life & the stimuli that were acting upon it.

by preparing ~~medicine and~~ food that will be agreeable to them. A pious lady in this city once said "the world rather make a Crop of Carrots to please the taste of a sick person, than discover a new planet." Recollect the pleasure derived from the taste ~~of this~~ food thus prepared, is part of its remedy. There are ~~cases~~ diseases in which it will be useful to abstract all kinds of medicines. ~~This~~

2dly ~~is surprising~~ when the disease is reduced down to be the level of the feeble operations of nature, in which case the most feeble medicine may thwart - or retard - or by accelerating the actions of nature, produce a new disease. ~~or hastens death being our~~

~~and~~ 3d ~~It is surprising~~ when we wish to get up our patient an exclusive reliance upon ~~the~~ exercise - journies - Baths or mineral waters. - By abstracting medicines from them we "shut them up" as it were to the faithful and constant use of those efficient remedies.

2dly when we wish to see what ~~effects~~ actions nature will ~~make~~ take on, or what efforts she will make to relieve herself by determining disease to a part of the body, in which we may most effectually ~~support~~ assist, or oppose her. By abstracting medicines we favour all counter currents to the operations nature. turn back to 3 = p 44]

[c Where there is danger of patients complaining from the want of medicines they should be deceived by bread pills]

A physician in this case should follow the advice an old Clergyman once gave to a young preacher that is "always to leave off when he had done", meaning thereby – when he had exhausted his subject. –

3 medicines should be withheld, or laid aside when we wish to begot in our patients an exclusive reliance upon exercise, journies, baths or mineral waters. By abstracting medicines from them we "shut them up" as it were to the faithful and constant use of those efficient remedies.

However ~~tiglung~~ minute these directions may appear to be for ascertaining the time of laying the aside the use of medicines be agreed, ~~than~~ they are highly important, and that the success of your practice will ~~wo~~ depend very much upon your attending to them.